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LETTER DATED 6 MARCH 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ITALY TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On behalf of the European Union I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a declaration of the Presidency of the European Union on the independent media in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

I would be grateful if you could have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) F. Paolo FULCI

96-05722 (E) 070396 080396

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Annex

[Original: English and French]

Declaration of the presidency on behalf of the European Union on the independent media in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

Rome, 6 March 1996. The European Union is gravely concerned about the recent decision which has led to the loss of independence of television station "Studio B" in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, as well as about the rumours of imminent negative measures against other independent information sources in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. It is also strongly concerned for the recent withdrawal of the registration of the Soros Yugoslavia Foundation in Belgrade.

It deems that such initiatives are not consistent with the commitments undertaken by the Belgrade Government in the framework of the process of pacification and stabilization in the area, which imply behaviours respectful of democratic standards.

The Union underlines the great importance it attaches to the consolidation of democratic principles in all the countries of former Yugoslavia and, in this context, to the freedom of independent media, which is a basic element of a really democratic society.

Such an important aspect will have its weight in the development of future relations between the European Union and the countries of the area.